The "mute mode" in the post-Xi Jinping era and the self-eating of power - Temple of Literature - World Wide Blog - World Wide Reader Network (computer version)

"The collapse of the empire often begins at the quietest moment." - Quoted from The Last Cycle of the Red Regime

I. Introduction: Silence is the highest level of signal

In the early summer of 2025, the air in Beijing is still depressed, and the CCTV camera is still familiar. However, the "that person" who was originally present everywhere has now become a blank behind the scene. Xi Jinping's name is still there, and his head is still there, but the miradical sense of existence is quietly reding.

Ben Bo once said: "In totalitarian politics, silence is often not a failure, but an agreement; it is not weakness, but a formation." The question is, this time, is it a retreat or a dead end for silence?

II. Historical mirror image: Mao's twilight, Deng's invisibility

In his later years, Mao Zedong relied on the illusion of "people's war" and "continuing revolution" to maintain his position; in his later years, Deng Xiaoping took the initiative to retire with the attitude of "economic

hanging" in exchange for the protection of "Deng Ji Market" and the loyalty of the army.

Xi Jinping's path is more like the former: he concentrates power at all costs and forges himself into the "chief designer of the new era". But he doesn't have Mao's deification energy, let alone Deng's political reserve team. When the failure of "zeroing" and "common prosperity" became a slogan, the system behind him began to "mismatch" silently.

Ben Bo once sarcastically: "History is not the strength of the strong, but the resilience of the system."

III. Economic predicament: from "the rise of a great country" to "national anxiety"

The signboard of "common prosperity" is still hanging, but the market and people's hearts have quietly turned around. The unemployment rate of young people is as high as 33%, the collapse of small and medium-sized enterprises continues, and the real estate market has entered a "dead state". What's more bizarre is that even the front-line official media rarely admit that the economy is "facing structural challenges".

In the blog, I directly pointed out: "A system that relies on mobilization to start a fortune, but 'keeps silent' on unemployment, is not indifferent, but helpless."

At the same time, with the exhaustion of local finances, the "black hole of urban investment debt" swallows up the central transfer payment. The political order of "one-size-fits-all" has left the local government in a dilemma: neither lying down nor afraid to do big, and finally reduced to the giant grassroots of "commuting and from work on time".

As Ben Bo wrote in the old article, "You can't shout for thousands of

horses while tightening your belt."

IV. Military reorganization: what is restructured is not combat power, but control power.

At the end of 2024, the Strategic Support Force was suddenly disbanded and replaced by the "Information Support Force". The senior personnel of the Rocket Army were completely reshuffled, and the former core generals "retreated" or "disappeared". This series of actions, on the surface, is "adapting to modern warfare", but in fact "cutting power and gathering control".

Ben Bo once wrote: "Army reform is not to improve combat effectiveness, but to prevent the army from becoming a variable."

Zhang Youxia's old man quickly rose to the top, and the "non-custom" generals in the army were promoted, indicating that the military power was not condensed, but redispersed. The "responsibility system of the chairman of the Military Commission" has now evolved into a "non-collective collective leadership".

In a word summary: the army has become a reflection, reflecting the unrest of power.

V. Publicity changes: new era, old logic, new rhetoric

At the end of 2023, the Communist Party of China officially put forward the "Xi Jinping Cultural Thought" for the first time, upgrading the governing concept to a cultural height. This is not the development of theory, but the closing of ideology.

Ben Bo satirized it as a "cultural sealing machine" and wrote: "When ideas begin to name themselves, it is not to build civilization, but to build a language system of power."

The fact is that the change of the propaganda system is more like a "closed echo wall": external criticism cannot enter, and internal information cannot be accessed. The original tool for serving the Party is being alienated into a ritual device to maintain authority - used to "tell Chinese stories well", but to "touch yourself".

At the same time, network supervision is getting stricter and stricter. From "fan circle rectification" to "AI content audit", everything is pointing to one purpose: building a strong speech firewall.

But the reality is that the higher the wall, the lower the trust.

VI. Three forks: retreat? Guard? Fight?

The current situation seems to be approaching the fork in power:

- **Retreat**, take the initiative to retreat like Deng Xiaoping, and be the "king without a crown", leaving room for the future.
- **Keep**, keep the position of president, enter a "half-hidden and half-current" state, and "balance" with the party factions.
- **Fight**, restart the rectification, expand the cleanse, and create a new struggle to reshape the authority.

But Ben Bo has already broken the essence of these three endings: "It's not a choice, but a concession." A power system built on the basis of "set to one", once a crack occurs, any action will create the risk of asymmetry.

He once wrote: "The script of a strong man is never written by himself,

but is forced to finish by the system."

VII. Conclusion: The Mute and Echor of History

Xi Jinping is not the first strong man in Chinese history, nor will he be the last. But he is the first strong man to rule within the "high wall of technology" and walk alone in the "global broken chain".

Today, he is being swallowed up by the system he has built, and is also being "muted" by history - not forgotten, but sealed, like a signal bullet that has not been triggered, which may be reinterpreted by future people at any time.

This is not fate, but logic.

I once wrote: "History will not inform you that it has been rewritten, but will only send a notice in silence one day."

The question now is - has the notice been delivered?

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